

a result of ban on mining operation in Bellary-Hospet region of the State in recent time;

(b) if so, whether as a result of shortfall in production, the targets fixed for export of the commodity are not likely to be achieved during the current year and the next two years; and

(c) if not, the action taken proposed to be taken to increase the export of iron-ore in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports during the current year may be affected as the mining operations are yet to be resumed by many companies.

(c) Measures to increase export of iron ore include the following apart from efforts to increase the production of iron ore :

1. Review of Infrastructural facilities at Madras and Goa Ports in particular & other Ports in general.
2. Exploring new markets for iron ore.

#### Mahila Courts in Assam

6508. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of Mahila Courts set up in Assam, location-wise so far to deal with the cases related to crimes against women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): There are no Mahila Courts in Assam.

#### Joint Venture

6509. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :  
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from States to set up Joint Ventures with some of the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the countries which are intending to set up Joint Ventures in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Data regarding joint venture proposals

with different States and foreign countries are not centrally maintained.

#### Export of Marine Products

6510. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :  
DR. B.N. REDDY :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
DR. M. JAGANNATH :  
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :  
SHRI L. RAMANA :  
SHRI K.S. RAYADU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of marine and meat products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, till date, country-wise;

(b) the share of States in contributing to the country's marine and meat exports;

(c) whether any complaints has been received from the foreign buyers regarding the poor quality of marine and meat products.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is great demand of Indian marine and meat products abroad;

(f) if so, the details thereof, item-wise;

(g) the amount of financial assistance given to the exporters for establishing facilities to maintain the quality of these items; and

(h) the steps taken to improve the quality and boost the export of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The quantity of marine and meat products exported during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned therefrom is as follows :-

Q: Quantity in M.T.		V: Value in Rs. Crores		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Marine Products	Q:	30337	296277	359730
	V:	3575.27	3501.11	4045.35
Meat Products	Q:	127700	169251	N.A.
	V:	392.93	614.06	832

The country wise details are available in the annual/ monthly number of the Foreign Trade Statistics published

by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliamentary Library. India exported marine products to the tune of 22050 MT worth Rs. 225 Crores in the month of April, 1997-98.

(b) Statewise export statistics of marine and meat products are not maintained. However, exports of marine products are mainly taking place from units located in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Orissa etc. Meat products are mainly exported from Maharashtra. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, etc.

(c) and (d) A few complaints have been received from the foreign buyers regarding the quality of marine products which are at the different stages of enquiry. No complaints regarding the quality of meat products have been received.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The world trade in marine products during the year 1995 is estimated to be 110 Million Tons valued at US \$ 47 Billion. The world trade in meat and meat products is estimated at about 14 million Tons.

(g) 203 marine products units were assisted by \*(MPEDA) investing an amount of Rs. 101.30 lakhs for establishing mini laboratories \*\* (APEDA) provided assistance for upgradation of public sector slaughter houses/processing plants engaged in export production, to the tune of Rs. 106.88 lakhs in the period from 1994-95 till 1996-97.

(h) The steps taken up for improving the quality and boosting the export of marine products relate to technical assistance to processors and exporters for complying with requisite standards, interaction with health authorities for resolving quality problems, encouraging the industry to upgrade the facilities, organising training/seminars, participation in trade fairs abroad and undertaking promotional measures for increasing market shares in existing as well as potential markets. The steps taken up in respect of meat products relate to prescribing standards for export of raw and processed meat products, providing financial assistance for upgradation of slaughter houses, undertaking market promotion activities in overseas markets and arranging buyer-seller meets as well as participation in trade fair abroad.

\*Marine Products Export Development Authority.

\*\*Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

#### Remunerative Price for Rubber and Cardamom

6511. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the prices of cash crop in Kerala especially rubber and cardamom has declined during the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Kerala in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) There has been a fall in price of rubber during the recent months. This was due to seasonal arrivals in the market and some what sluggish demand from industry. However of late, prices of rubber have started firming up and as on 8th May, 1997, the price of RSS-IV variety of rubber at Kottayam was Rs. 48 per kg.

The weighted average domestic price of small cardamom has shown a mixed trend in the recent past. The reason for variation has been the imbalance between domestic demand and supply of cardamom.

In respect of cardamom no representation was received from the Government of Kerala. In March, 1997, the Govt. of Kerala had written drawing attention to the low levels of rubber prices and were assured of a careful watch being kept on the price situation. There is now a firm upward trend in prices.

Some of the steps taken by the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the growers of cardamom include production and supply of planting material, assistance for replantation of old diseased plant, subsidy for irrigation and level development, participation, participation in domestic/international fairs, reimbursement of air-freight charges for export in consumer pack by air to middle east destinations and exemption of cess on export of cardamom etc. Further, all concerned customs